

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 12 have been amended. Claim 13-14 have been added. Claims 1-14 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

Priority document DE 100 55 863.1 is enclosed herewith.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. Claims 2-10 and 12 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter deemed to be the present invention. Specifically, it is alleged that the acronym "MOST" is indefinite.

As known, MOST is an acronym for "Media Oriented Systems Transport". MOST is a multimedia fiber-optic network optimized for automotive applications. The network was founded by many of the leading automotive manufacturers and vendors developing telematics solutions for the automobile industry, including Audi, BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Harman/Becker, Motorola, Oasis Silicon Systems, Johnson Controls and Delphi-Delco.

Claims 2 and 12 have been amended to replace the acronym "MOST" with its formal definition.

2. Claims 1-12 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for allegedly being obvious in view of the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,414,941 to Murakami (hereinafter "Murakami").

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a multimedia unit for use in a vehicle multimedia system that includes a plurality of multimedia units connected to a ring-shaped bus. The multimedia unit comprises:

“a plurality a transceiver units configured to communicate over the ring-shaped bus, wherein said multimedia unit includes a network controller that controls the communication of said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.” (emphasis added, cl. 1).

As set forth in claim 1, the multimedia unit includes a plurality of transceiver units, and each of the transceiver units is controlled by a network controller. In contrast, Murakami discloses that a single network controller controls a single associated transceiver. For example, FIG. 2 of Murakami illustrates that the node N1 includes only a single transceiver, which includes receiver 11 and transmitter 29. A fair and proper reading of Murakami reveals that this prior art reference neither discloses nor suggests a multimedia unit as recited in claim 1, which includes: (i) a *plurality* of transceivers and (ii) a network controller, *wherein the network controller controls the communication of the plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus*.

It is recognized in the Official Action that Murakami discloses a “... *first transceiver unit 11/29 for receiving incoming signals and outputting signals in the ring network...*” (Official Action, pg. 2). It is then alleged “[a]lthough Murakami does not specifically state that the signals are also received from the supervisory controller, since the controller controls the node, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include secondary receiving means at each node unit to receive node control signals.” (Official Action, pgs. 2-3). Assuming for the moment, but without admitting, that such a construction of Murakami is

correct, it still fails to render obvious the claimed invention. As set forth in claim 1, the multimedia unit comprises:

“a plurality a transceiver units configured to communicate over the ring-shaped bus, wherein said multimedia unit includes a network controller that controls the communication of said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.” (emphasis added, cl. 1).

As alleged in the Official Action the secondary receiving means communicates directly with the supervisory controller (i.e., not over the ring bus). The secondary receiving means as alleged in the Official Action would not communicate over the ring-shaped bus. This is further supported by the structure illustrated in FIG. 2 of Murakami, since the communication between the node N1 and the node controller NC1 (i.e., the supervisory controller) is via a dedicated communications link 5a, not the ring network components 3a or 3d. Accordingly, even when viewed as suggested in the Official Action, Murakami still fails to render the claimed invention obvious since the reference fails to either disclose or suggest at least “...*a network controller that controls the communication of said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.*” (emphasis added, cl. 1). As alleged in the Official Action, Murakami suggests communicating over the network with the first transceiver 11/29, and communicating between the node controller NC1 and the node N1 over a communication line 5a. Significantly, as alleged in the Official Action, the communication between the node controller NC1 and the node N1 is over a communication line 5a, and not over the ring-shaped bus as recited in claim 1.

Claim 11

Claim 11 recites a motor vehicle multimedia system, which includes:

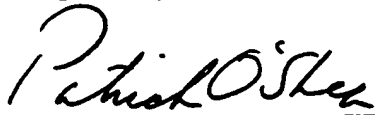
“a ring-shaped data bus; and
a plurality of multimedia units connected to the ring-shaped bus, at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality a transceiver units and a network controller, wherein said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said ring-shaped bus and said network controller controls the communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver units over said ring-shaped bus.” (emphasis added, cl. 11).

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Murakami neither discloses nor suggests a multimedia unit that includes a plurality of transceiver units, wherein each of the plurality of transceiver units communicates over the ring-shaped bus. Again, the Official Action merely characterizes Murakami as disclosing a first transceiver that communicates over the ring network, and a secondary receiving means that communicates for example via the communication line 5a (see Murakami, FIG. 1). The Official Action does not characterize Murakami as either disclosing or suggesting a multimedia unit that includes a plurality of transceiver units, wherein *each* of the plurality of transceiver units communicates over the ring-shaped bus. Therefore, Murakami is also incapable of rendering claim 11 obvious.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-14 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Patrick J. O'Shea
Reg. No. 35,305
Samuels, Gauthier & Stevens, LLP
225 Franklin Street, Suite 3300
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 426-9180, Ext. 121